

Message Text

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12

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04

H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

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R 031317Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7997

INFO AMCONSUL ASMARA

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY LOURENCO MARQUES

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT 75

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY RABAT

C O N F I D E N T I A L ADDIS ABABA 1364

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR OAU ET

SUBJECT: OAU LIBERATION COMMITTEE MEETING IN LOURENCO MARQUES

REF: ADDIS 0922

1. DURING CALL ON EPMG FONMIN KIFLE WODAJI FEB 3 FOR OTHER MATTERS, AMB QUERIED KIFLE ON RESULTS OF RECENT OAU LIBERATION COMMITTEE MEETING IN LOURENCO MARQUES. KIFLE REPLIED ALMOST EXCLUSIVELY IN TERMS OF COMMITTEE'S CONSIDERATION OF TFAI PROBLEM WHICH HE SAID WAS OF COURSE OF MOST CONCERN TO ETHIOPIA.

2. ACCORDING KIFLE, LIBERATION COMMITTEE HAD BEFORE IT A REPORT EARLIER PREPARED BY A STANDING COMMITTEE
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WHICH IN SUBSTANCE PROPOSED A FACT FINDING MISSION TO

DJIBOUTI COMPOSED JOINTLY OF PERSONNEL FROM OAU SECRETARIAT AND LIBERATION COMMITTEE.

2. SOMALIS WERE OPPOSED TO MISSION LIMITED TO SEEKING INFO AND WANTED TO CONVERT MISSION INTO A POLITICAL COMMITTEE OF FOUR MEMBERS OF LIBERATION COMMITTEE TO INVESTIGATE POLITICAL SITUATION AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS. IN ETHIOPIA'S VIEW, SOMALIS' IMMEDIATE OBJECTIVE WAS PREVENTING ANY REFERENDUM ON TFAI'S FUTURE FROM TAKING PLACE. THEY WERE THEREFORE ALREADY INCREASING SUBVERSIVE ACTIVITY IN DJIBOUTI, AND INTRODUCING ARMS AND AGENTS. SOMALIS MAIN TACTIC IS TO PUT FRANCE IN A BAD LIGHT AND THEY ARE USING ALL POSSIBLE MEANS TO DO SO. EPMG JUST THIS MORNING HAD REPORT THAT 33 FRENCH CHILDREN HAD BEEN KIDNAPPED FROM A SCHOOL BUS IN DJIBOUTI.

3. ETHIOPIA THEREFORE PROPOSED THAT IF A POLITICAL COMMISSION WERE TO BE FORMED, IT SHOULD ALSO GO TO NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES TO INVESTIGATE SITUATION THOROUGHLY AND IN PARTICULAR DETERMINE WHAT SPECIFIC GUARANTEES OTHER COUNTRIES WERE WILLING TO GIVE RE TFAI INDEPENDENCE, ESPECIALLY THAT DJIBOUTI NOT BE USED AS A BASE FOR ANY EXTERNAL POWER, AFRICAN OR NON-AFRICAN.

4. KIFLE SAID SOMALIS CLAIMED SUCH MISSION WAS NOT NECESSARY AND RESULT WAS THAT COMMISSION'S MANDATE IS STILL UNDER REGOTIATION. COMMISSION CHAIRMAN IS EGYPT'S MOHAMMED RIYAD. KIFLE PERSONALLY DOESN'T BELIEVE SOMALIS WILL ACCEPT ANY BROADENED MANDATE AND THAT AS RESULT, COMMISSION WILL "NOT TAKE OFF." ETHIOPIA OF COURSE WAS ALERT TO UNDERLYING CURRENTS SUPPORTING SOMALIS AND IDENTIFIED GUINEA, GUINEA-BISSAU AND CONGO; AS SUPPORTERS OF SOMALI POSITION.

5. ON OTHER MATTERS, KIFLE SAID THAT ANGOLA, AS INDEPENDENT NATION, WAS ONLY DISCUSSED, IN MINOR WAY IN CONNECTION NAMIBIA SITUATION. COMMITTEE MEMBERS OVERWHELMINGLY SUPPORTED ALGERIAN POSITION ON SPANISH SAHARA AND VOTED TO ACCEPT POLISARIO AS LIBERATION MOVEMENT, REFUSING TO ACCEPT MOROCCAN/MAURETANIAN POSITION

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THAT SPANISH SAHARA WAS ALREADY DECOLONIZED. POLISARIO REP SPOKE AT MEETING, AND MOJOCANS AND MAURETBIANS WALKED OUT WHEN THEIR POSITION FAILED TO RECEIVE SUPPORT (SEE SEPTEL FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FROM ANOTHER SOURCE). HUMMEL

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